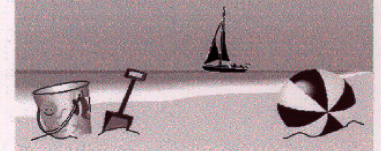


Non-Regulatory Approaches:

Partnerships and the E.coli Task Force

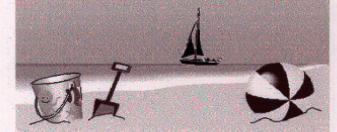
Great Lakes Regional Beaches Conference
February 6 - 8, 2001

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Kathy Luther
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Co-Chair
Interagency Task Force

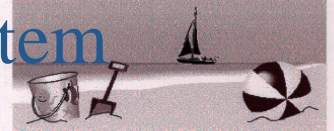
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Regulations

- P** Bacteriological Recreational Water Quality Std.
 - < E. coli = 235 cfu/100 mL max., 126 cfu/100 mL mean
- P** Waster Water Treatment Requirements
 - < NPDES Permit Program
 - < Combined Sewer Overflow Short and Long Term Plans.
- P** Confined Animal Feeding Operation and Land Application Regulations.
- P** On-Site Sewage Disposal Regulations.
 - < Siting requirements, design guidance, new system inspection.

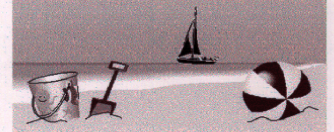
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Overview

- P Indiana's Beaches
- P Extent of the Problem in Indiana
- P History of the Task Force
- P Successes
- P Next Steps for the Task Force
- P Advantages of the Partnership Approach
- P Challenges of the Partnership Approach
- P To Try This At Home

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Indiana's Beaches

P Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

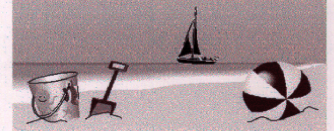
< In 1999 over 1.7 million visitors.

P Indiana Dunes State Park

P County and City Park Beaches

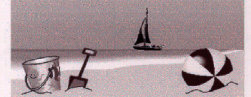
P In 1996 over \$500 million was spent by visitors to the coastal area.

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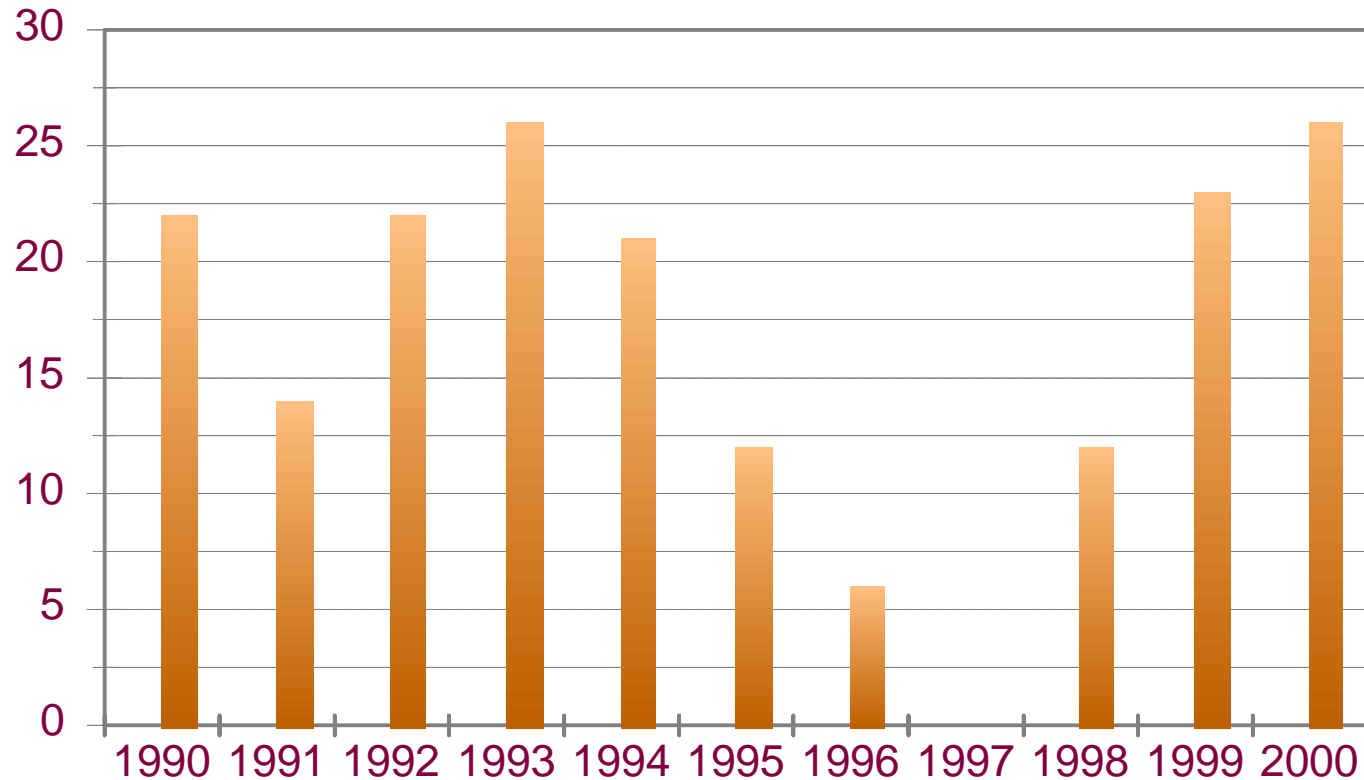


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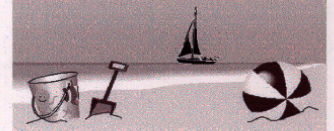


The Beach Closure Problem

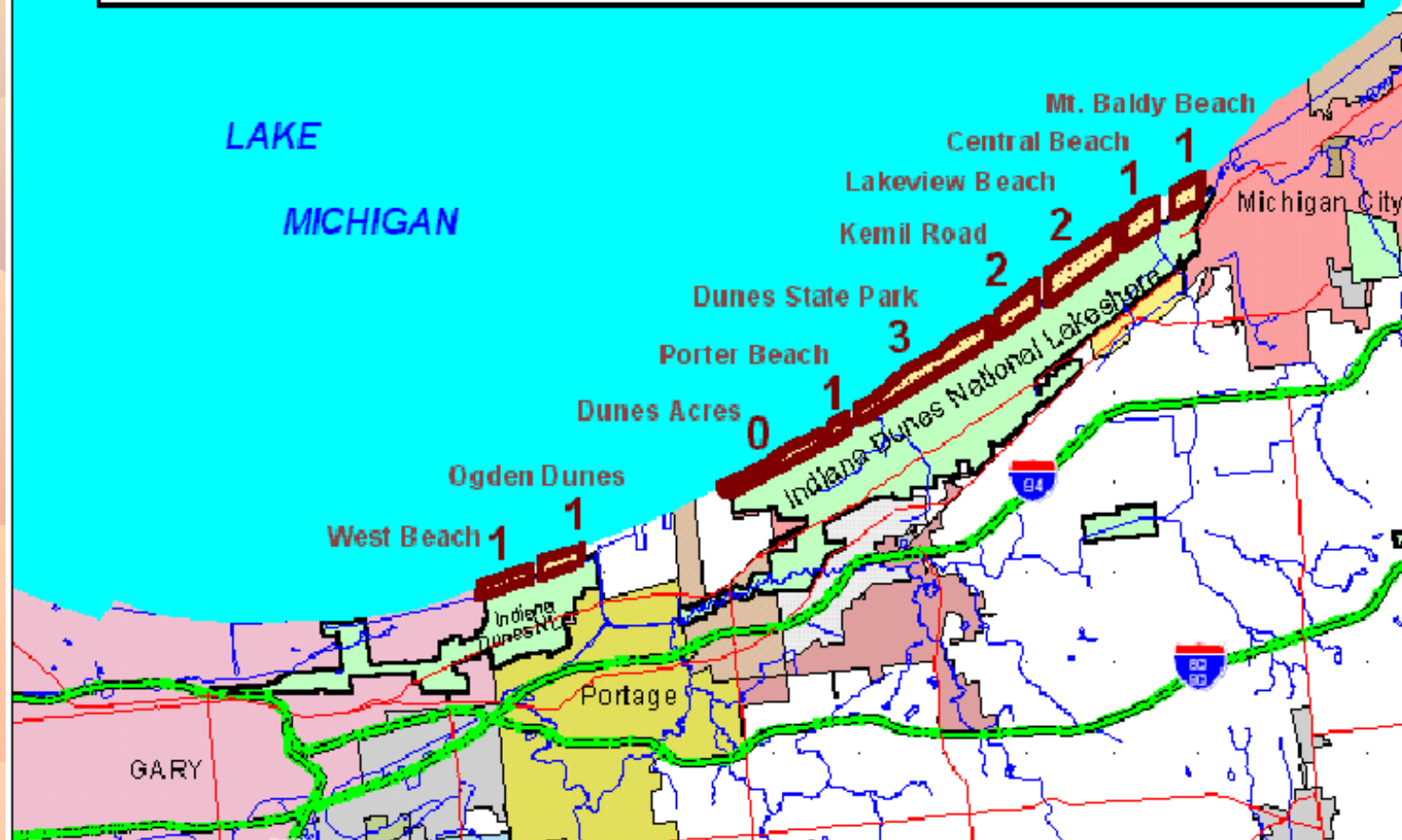
Annual closures at National Lakeshore and State Park



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Number of Beach Closings in NW Indiana for 1998



Number of Beach Closings in NW Indiana for 1999

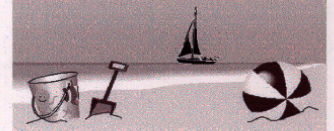


E. coli Task Force

History

- P** 1995: Indiana DNR holds Public Work Groups in Northwest Indiana. Beach closing is identified as a critical issue.
- P** 1996: IDNR Coastal Coordination Program hosts a meeting of federal, state, and local agencies and scientists to discuss the problem.
- P** Interagency Technical Task Force on E. coli is born.

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E. coli Task Force

Member Organizations

P Federal Agencies

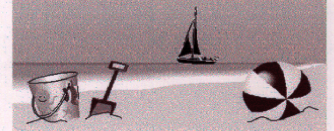
- < US Environmental Protection Agency
- < Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- < US Geological Survey
- < US Natural Resource Conservation Service

P Indiana Agencies

- < Department of Environmental Management
- < Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- < Indiana State Department of Health

P Citizen Groups

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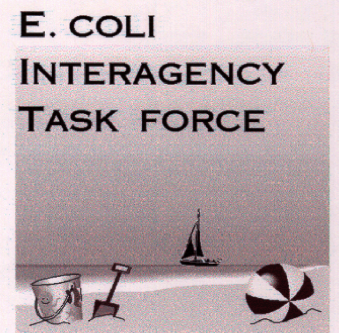
E. coli Task Force

P Local and Regional Government Agencies

- < Lake, Porter, and LaPorte County Health Departments
- < Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Portage, Chesterton, Valparaiso, and Michigan City POTWs
- < Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- < City of Chicago

P Universities and Research Institutes

- < Indiana University Bloomington and Northwest
- < Indiana Geological Survey
- < Purdue University Calumet
- < Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program



E. coli Task Force

Early Discoveries

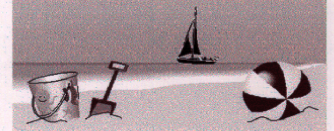
- P** A variety of sampling and research was ongoing.
- P** Data was not comparable do to inconsistent sampling methodologies.
- P** Everyone had different ideas about which were the important sources.
- P** Consensus: E. coli happens. (Mostly when it rains.)

E. coli Task Force

Goals

- P** Forecast beach bacteria levels in real-time to improve protection of public health.
- P** Identify sources of bacteria and conditions which cause closures.
- P** Remediate sources.

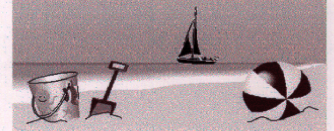
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Successes:

- P** Standard Operating Procedures
- P** Volunteer Monitoring Network
- P** Funded Research Projects
- P** Coordinated Enforcement
- P** Increased Public Awareness

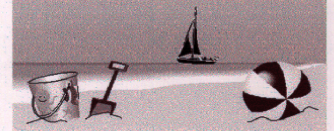
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Future Steps

- P Targeted Outreach Tools
- P Capitalize on Research Results
- P Support City CSO Implementation Plans
- P TMDLs

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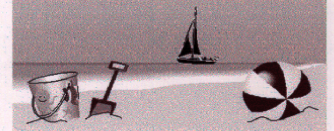


Advantages

Of the Partnership Approach

- P** Information Sharing
- P** Attractive to Funders
- P** Key Players at the Table
- P** Multiple Attack Angles

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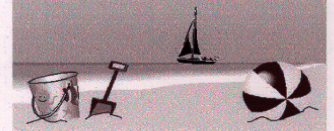


Challenges

Of the Partnership Approach

- P** Different Member Priorities, Different Solutions
- P** Difficult to Maintain Focus
- P** Consensus Can Be Time Consuming
- P** Dedicated Staff-Time, High Turnover
- P** No Ultimate Authority or Responsibility

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Warning

You Can Try This At Home

P Find a Leader

P Investigate Partners:

- < Local Universities or Colleges
- < County Health Departments
- < Local Utilities and Industries

P Perseverance and Patience